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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/714,386	11/14/2003	Andrew H. Barr	200308581-1	3950

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EXAMINER

BHAT, ADITYA S

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2863

DATE MAILED: 05/18/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

9/

Office Action Summary	Application No.		Applicant(s)	
	10/714,386		BARR ET AL.	
	Examiner		Art Unit	
	Aditya S. Bhat		2863	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 21 February 2006.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 14 November 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Jenkins et al. (USPN 6,002,868) in view of Brickman (USPN 4,315,330).

With regards to claim 1, Jenkins et al. (USPN 6,002,868) teaches a computer system comprising:

a processor(100 figure 1) configured to execute an operating system; (Col. 4, lines 31-34)

a memory controller coupled to the processor; (104 figure 1)

a memory coupled to the memory controller; (108 figure 1)

a first input/output (I/O) controller coupled to the memory controller; (136;figure 1)

a first expansion slot coupled to the first I/O controller; and (138; figure 1)

a test module card coupled to the first expansion slot; (Col.1, lines 31-32)

With regards to claims 2 and 16, Jenkins et al. (USPN 6,002,868) teaches the operating system, wherein the processor is configured to cause the operating system to be booted, and wherein the test module card is configured to cause the tests to be performed on the memory using the first bus subsequent to the operating system being booted. (Col.4, lines 24-34)

With regards to claims 3 and 17, Jenkins et al. (USPN 6,002,868) teaches an operating system, wherein the processor is configured to cause the operating system to be executed, and wherein the test module card is configured to cause the tests to be performed on the memory using the first bus during execution of the operating system. (Col.4, lines 24-34)

With regards to claim 4, Jenkins et al. (USPN 6,002,868) teaches a second I/O controller coupled to the memory controller; a second expansion slot coupled to the second I/O controller; and an I/O device coupled to the second expansion slot. (114,118;figure 1)

With regards to claim 5, Jenkins et al. (USPN 6,002,868) teaches the test module card is configured to cause tests to be performed on the memory by providing read and write transactions to the first I/O controller. (638;figure 6c)

With regards to claim 6, Jenkins et al. (USPN 6,002,868) teaches the read and write transactions comprise DMA transactions. (Col. 3,lines 56)

With regards to claim 7, Jenkins et al. (USPN 6,002,868) teaches a bus bridge coupled to the processor and the first I/O controller. (110;figure1)

With regards to claim 8, Jenkins et al. (USPN 6,002,868) teaches a system controller that comprises the memory controller. (104; figure 1)

With regards to claim 9, Jenkins et al. (USPN 6,002,868) teaches a method comprising:

obtaining access to a portion of a memory of a computer for testing during operation of the computer system; (Col.1, lines 28-31)

generating a test transaction in a test module card directly coupled to an expansion slot of the computer system; (308,310; figure 3) and

With regards to claim 10, Jenkins et al. (USPN 6,002,868) teaches detecting an error that occurs in response to the test transaction; and performing a remedial action in response to detecting the error. (Col. 8, lines 26-40)

With regards to claim 11, Jenkins et al. (USPN 6,002,868) teaches providing the test transaction from the test module to the I/O controller;

providing the test transaction from the I/O controller to a bus bridge; (Col.3-4, lines 53-67 & 1-2)

providing the test transaction from the bus bridge to a system bus; (Col.3, lines 44-45)

providing the test transaction from the system bus to a memory controller; (Col. 3, lines 28-29) and

providing the test transaction from the memory controller to the portion.(104,108; figure 1)

With regards to claim 12, Jenkins et al. (USPN 6,002,868) teaches storing information in the memory in response to the test transaction being a write transaction. (516;figure 5b)

With regards to claim 13, Jenkins et al. (USPN 6,002,868) teaches in response to the test transaction being a read transaction: (516;figure 5b)

providing information associated with the test transaction from the portion to the memory controller; (see figure 1)

providing the information from the memory controller to the system bus; (see figure 1)

providing the information from the system bus to the bus bridge; (see figure 1)

providing the information from the bus bridge to the I/O controller; (see figure 1)

and

providing the information from the I/O controller to the test module. (see figure 1)

With regards to claim 14, Jenkins et al. (USPN 6,002,868) teaches providing the test transaction from the test module to the I/O controller; (Col.9, lines 28-39)

providing the test transaction from the I/O controller to a system controller; (Col.9, lines 28-39)

providing the test transaction from the system controller to a memory controller; (Col.9, lines 28-39) and

providing the test transaction from the memory controller to the portion. (Col.9, lines 28-39)

With regards to claim 15, Jenkins et al. (USPN 6,002,868) teaches a computer system comprising:

a processor;(100;figure 1)

a memory controller coupled to the processor and configured to perform error correction (104 figure 1)

a memory coupled to the memory controller; (108 figure 1)

an input/output (I/O) controller coupled to the memory controller; (136;figure 1)

an expansion slot coupled to the I/O controller; (138; figure 1) and

a test module card directly coupled to the expansion slot; (Col.1, lines 31-32)

.With regards to claim 18, Jenkins et al. (USPN 6,002,868) teaches the bus comprises a system bus. (102;Col. 3,line 29)

With regards to claim 19, Jenkins et al. (USPN 6,002,868) teaches the test module is configured to cause tests to be performed on the memory using direct memory access (DMA). (Col. 3, lines 55-57)

With regards to claim 20, Jenkins et al. (USPN 6,002,868) teaches direct memory access (DMA) transactions. (Col. 3, lines 55-57)

Jenkins et al. (USPN 6,002,868) does not appear to explicitly disclose providing the test transaction to the portion using direct memory access (DMA) subsequent to obtaining access to the portion of the memory and the test module card is configured to obtain access to a portion of the memory from an operating system, and wherein the test module card is configured to cause tests to be performed on the portion of the memory using direct memory access (DMA) subsequent to obtaining access to the portion of the memory.

Brickman (USPN 4,315,330) teaches providing the test transaction to the portion using direct memory access (DMA) subsequent to obtaining access to the portion of the memory (Col.2-3 lines 60-68 & 1-5) and the test module card is configured to obtain access to a portion of the memory from an operating system, and wherein the test module card is configured to cause tests to be performed on the portion of the memory using direct memory access (DMA) subsequent to obtaining access to the portion of the memory. (Col.2-3 lines 60-68 & 1-5)

It would've been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of the invention to modify the invention taught by Jenkins to include the above cited limitations taught by Brickman in order to arrive at the claimed invention in order to carry out multiple data rate testing of communications equipment with a more simplified testing mechanism.(col. 2, lines 40-42)

Response to Arguments

Applicant is reminded that during patent examination, the pending claims must be "given the broadest reasonable interpretation consistent with the specification." Applicant always has the opportunity to amend the claims during prosecution, and broad interpretation by the examiner reduces the possibility that the claim, once issued, will be interpreted more broadly than is justified. In re Prater, 415 F.2d 1393, 1404-05, 162 USPQ 541, 550-51 (CCPA 1969).

While the meaning of claims of issued patents are interpreted in light of the specification, prosecution history, prior art and other claims, this is not the mode of claim interpretation to be applied during examination. During examination, the claims must be interpreted as broadly as their terms reasonably allowed. This means that the words of the claim must be given their plain meaning unless applicant has provided a clear definition in the specification. In re Zletz, 893 F.2d 319, 321, 13 USPQ2d 1320, 1322 (Fed. Cir. 1989).

In this instance applicant argues that the prior art of record does not teach a test module card directly coupled to the first expansion slot (col.1, Lines 30-32), the test module card is configured to obtain access to a portion of the memory from the

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operating system and wherein the test module card is configured to cause tests to be performed on the portion of the memory using direct memory access (DMA) subsequent to obtaining access to the portion of the memory (Brickman Col.2-3 lines 60-68 & 1-5) wherein the read and write transactions comprise DMA transactions (Brickman 306 ;figure 29), and obtaining access to a portion of a memory of a computer system from an operating system during operation of a computer system (Brickman Col.2-3 lines 60-68 & 1-5).

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Barry (USPUB 2005/0149693) teaches methods and apparatus for dual-use coprocessing/debug interface.

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

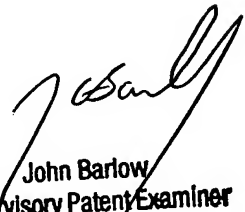
A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Aditya S Bhat whose telephone number is 571-272-2270. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 9-5:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Barlow can be reached on 571-272-2269. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Aditya Bhat
May 15, 2006


John Barlow
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